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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 22, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, Father and Creator of all, this Nation is singular and powerful by the very fact that Congress begins its workday with prayer, setting an example for all students and workers of this great land.

By seeking Your presence in moments of prayer each day, we humbly lay before You our limitations and our hopes. We display our openness to Your creative light to guide us in the decisions that need to be made to stay the course of government of Your free people.

By being attuned to Your power, our vision is expanded and our compassion for our brothers and sisters is turned into action.

In You and with You, America's ideals are realized and equal justice for all is within reach both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I am touched by the unwavering spirit of the American people during these tough economic times. We continue to work hard and last week we all paid our taxes. In fact, thousands of immigrants also paid into our tax system through payroll taxes and sales taxes.

There are 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants that are living and working in this Nation trying to build a better life for their families. I state, a better life for their families. We cannot forget that this country was founded by immigrants who prayed for a better life and who were willing to work hard to make it happen.

By providing a path to citizenship, it is estimated that new legal immigrants would provide \$407 billion to strengthen the Social Security system over the

next 50 years. We must bring this working population out from the shadows and allow them to become active contributing members of our society.

I urge my colleagues to work with the CHC and President Obama to support comprehensive immigration reform that will fix our economy and respect all families.

TAXED ENOUGH ALREADY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the British Crown initially ignored the Boston Tea Party in 1773 and regarded the participants as rabble, authorities thought nothing would come of the protest. They, of course, were wrong. Early Americans were objecting to the British government for not responding to the concerns of the people.

Now, this year, TEA parties, which means taxed enough already, were held throughout the country where citizens exercised the absolute right under the first amendment "to peaceably assemble and petition government for redress of grievances." Most people seemed to be protesting spending and taxation.

The critics said no one would show up. They, of course, were wrong. Many in the media didn't want to cover the events because, frankly, they were politically opposed to the idea, so they responded by calling the protesters kooks and extremists, sort of like the British calling the colonists rabble and troublemakers.

But thousands of Americans, normal taxpayers who work for a living and not beholden to government giveaway programs showed up to let government know that citizens don't like the government spending so much of their money, borrowing money from China and taxing citizens out of existence. Government would do well to listen.

And that's just the way it is.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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